

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

---

B1 cont.  
Claim 1 (currently amended): A socket for a connector comprising a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein, a protuberance provided within the cavity, a through hole defined substantially at the center of the protuberance, for allowing a plug extremity to be inserted from an outer end thereof, and a connector element disposed at an inner end of the through hole, opposite thereto, wherein an opening is defined in the wall of the through hole by cutting off a part of the wall, and wherein when a shutter is inserted into the opening, the through hole is blocked up with the shutter by an urging force of an elastic member while the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 2 (original): The socket for a connector according to Claim 1, wherein the opening is defined in the wall extending either right and left in the horizontal direction or up and down in the vertical direction.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein an inclined face is formed on one end face of the shutter, and when an extremity of the inclined face is butted against the through hole, the through hole is blocked with the shutter while when the

B1  
cont.  
inclined face is pressed by the plug extremity, the shutter is moved against the urging force of the elastic member to release the through hole from a ~~block~~ blocked state.

Claim 4 (original): The socket for a connector according to Claim 3, wherein a groove or a step is defined at the portion where the inclined extremity of the shutter is butted against the inner face of the through hole, causing the inclined extremity of the shutter to make ingress in the groove or butted against the step.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A socket for a connector comprising a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein, a protuberance provided within the cavity, a through hole defined substantially at the center of the protuberance, for allowing a plug extremity to be inserted from an outer end thereof, and a connector element disposed at an inner end of the through hole, opposite thereto, wherein an opening is defined in the wall of the through hole by cutting off a part of the wall disposed opposite to the other end of the through hole, and wherein when a pair of shutters are inserted into the opening, one ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is urged by elastic members while the other ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters are brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 5, wherein

B1  
cont.

the opening is defined in the walls of the through hole by cutting off a part of the walls disposed opposite at an inner end of the through hole in the vertical direction, wherein when the pair of shutters are inserted into the opening, one ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters are urged by elastic members while the other ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters are brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 5, wherein the opening is defined in the walls of the through hole by cutting off a part of the walls disposed opposite at an inner end of the through hole in the horizontal direction, wherein when the pair of shutters are inserted into the opening, one ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters are urged by elastic members while the other ~~ends~~ end of the respective shutters are brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 5 to 7, wherein inclined faces are formed on one end ~~faces~~ face of the shutters while leaving extremities of the shutters on the one end ~~faces~~ face by a small part, and when the extremities of the shutters are butted against each other, the through hole is blocked up with the shutters, while when the inclined faces are pressed by a plug extremity, the shutters are moved against the urging force of

B1  
cont.  
the elastic member to release the through hole from a blocked state.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 8, wherein inclined faces are formed on one end ~~faces~~ face of the shutters while leaving extremities of the shutters on the one end ~~faces~~ face by a small part, and a protrusion piece having elasticity is provided on the tip end of one inclined face, wherein when the extremities of the shutters are brought into contact with each other, the protrusion piece is brought into contact with the other inclined face elastically to block up the through hole, and while when the inclined faces are pressed by a plug extremity, the shutters are moved against the urging force of the elastic member to release the through hole from a blocked state.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, wherein the plug is a plug for an optical connector and the connector element is an optical element.

Claim 11 (previously amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, wherein the plug is a plug for an electric connector and the connector element is an electric connector element.

*B1  
amended*

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of assembling a socket for a connector comprising, using a socket defining a narrow opening in the rear face of a socket housing for allowing a shutter or shutters and components to be inserted therein and a cover body to be fitted therein, and causing the shutter or shutters and the components to be fixed therein.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of assembling a socket for a connector comprising, using a socket defining a narrow opening in the rear face of a socket housing, setting components on the front face of a cover body, for allowing a shutter or shutters to be inserted in the narrow opening and for allowing the cover to be fitted on the narrow opening, and causing the shutter or shutters to be fixed therein.

---